

REDBRIDGE BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE
CHARITY NO:1075351



Annual Report and Accounts
For the year ended
31 October 2023

Charity Information

President

Ven. Pethigamuwe Hemaratana – Chief Incumbent

Hon. Joint Secretaries

Mr Bennet Samarakoon

Mr Manoj Fernando

Hon. Joint Treasurers

Mr Mangala Kannangara

Mr Thilak Mudalige

Board of Trustees

Ven Pethigamuwe Hemaratana

Mrs Sumana Hemalatha Wimalasundera

Mrs Mallika Pearl Nanayakkara

Dr Siri Abeysekera

Mrs Renuka Perera

Dr Palitha Serasinghe

Mr Aruna Perera

Dr W Gunawardana

Independent Examiner

Mr Sarath Jayaratne

119 Belgrave Avenue Romford

Essex

RM2 6PS

Bankers

HSBC

74 High Street Barkingside

Ilford,

Essex

IG6 2DN

**Charity Commission registration number:
1075351**

Charity Address

Redbridge Buddhist Cultural Centre

9 Balfour Road

Ilford

Essex

IG1 4HP

9, Balfour Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 4HP Tel: 020 8478 8286

Registered Charity No: 1075351

Trustees' Annual Report of the RBCC for the year 2022/2023

The Annual General Meeting was held on 11th December 2022 to appoint the executive committee members and the trustees of the RBCC for the year 2022/2023. The 'RESOLUTION 2022' proposed by Trustee board was passed during this AGM. The following members served as the trustees of the charity:

- Rev P. Hemaratana
- Mrs. Mallika Nanayakkara
- Mrs. Hema Wimalasundera
- Mr. Bandusiri. Perera
- Mrs Renuka Perera
- Dr Siriwardana Abeysekara
- Dr Palitha Serasinghe
- Mr Aruna Perera
- Dr W D Gunawardhana

Activities & Achievements of the Charity

The following activities were carried out to achieve the objectives of the charity during the year 2022/2023.

This year brought a full relaxing of gatherings and for the first time in several years, we were able to hold most of the events outdoors and external venues. As the year progressed, we completely moved the activities and events to be similar to before the COVID pandemic.

Blessings for the new year

On January 7th, 2023 from 7.00 to 11.00 pm the customary Pirith chanting was held at the Vihara. This event aimed to bestow blessings upon devotees and their families through a restricted in-person gathering. Moreover, a multitude of individuals joined virtually to invoke the genuine and exceptional virtues of the Triple Gem. The Ratana Sutra, renowned as a protective chant, was regularly recited by the Maha Sanga at the temple. This recitation served to bestow blessings upon all those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and those confronted with any manifestation of adversity, negativity, illness, or the fear of death. The event was also broadcasted via online platform forums.

Obituary of Trustee – Mr. Bandula Perera

It is with great sadness we learned the death of Mr. Bandusiri Perera who passed away in February. He was one of the founding members of the Vihara and his funeral took place on 24th Feb, 2023 at Forrest Park Crematorium.

Food Fair

In order to find necessary funds for the cost of the forthcoming New Year Festival, a food fair was held at the temple premises on 26th March 2023 from 3.00 pm onwards. This was a very successful event attended by many devotees and well-wishers.

New Year Ceremony

The annual Sri Lankan New Year Ceremony holds significant importance within the Sri Lankan community in the UK. This year we were lucky to have this event outdoor/external larger venue for the first time after the COVID pandemic. The event was held on 29th April 2023 at Woodbridge High School from 11.00 am onwards and attended by a very large gathering and devotee families and their children were able to partake in this year's celebration. The organising committee, alongside the children, parents, and teachers worked very hard to make this event a success. The collaborative effort of the children, parents, and organizers deserves high praise. Moreover, this initiative played a substantial role in restoring the emotional well-being of both children and adults, especially in the aftermath of disruptions caused by the pandemic to their daily lives.

Wesak Day & Dansela (free food to the devotees)

Wesak full moon day stands as the primary occasion on the Buddhist calendar, dedicated to commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and passing away of Buddha. On May 14th, religious activities unfolded throughout the course of Wesak day. Typically, the observance of Sil (eight precepts) takes precedence and traditionally occurs at the temple. This programme was followed by a dansela where free food was given to the large gathering of devotees at the temple premises.

Posson Day & Bakthi Gee (singing of Buddhist Devotional songs)

The Posson day religious activities were also held on the 6th of June with a large gathering of devotees at the Vihara followed by the religious songs presented by children from the Sunday school and their parents. In the end, there was a dansela where free food was given to the large gathering of devotees at the temple premises.

Awarding of Credentials/ Felicitation Ceremony to Ven. P Hemaratana Thero

On July 1st, 2023 at 3.00 pm, a ceremony was held at the Woodbridge High School to facilitate Ven. P. Hemaratana Thero following the official event (present of Akta Patra) held at Kotte Raja Maha Vihara in Sri Lanka marking this significant occasion. Venerable Pethigamuwe Hemaratana thero, who serves as the Head of the Vihara and the President of the Executive Committee of Redbridge Buddhist Cultural Centre, was granted the prestigious title of Chief Prelate (Sanganayake) of England by the Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotte Sri Kalyani Samagree Dharma Maha Sanga Sabha. Following this recognition, a welcome ceremony took place at the Molligoda Prawachanodaya Piriven Vihara, attended by devotees and well-wishers, with a substantial gathering of participants.

Vas Aradhana (Invitation for Rain Retreat) and Offering Katina Robe to Maha Sanga (Katina Ceremony)

The invitation for venerable monks to partake in the Rain Retreat was held on July 30th. Subsequently, the ceremony to present the Katina Robe took place on November 19th 2023, at Loxford School Hall. The event saw the participation of a huge gathering of devotees as this was the first time this event was organised outside of the temple after the COVID-19 disruptions.

Special sermons and chanting by the venerable monks

This year saw the venerable monks fully attending and engaging in services for the religious requirements and emotional well-being of the devotees.

In this regard, the resident monks of the Vihara undertook various religious ceremonies, including conducting religious activities in funerals for devotee families, engaging in chanting and bestowing blessings upon those affected by ill health and sometimes visiting them personally. The Vihara played a crucial role in assisting bereaved families and victims, employing diverse strategies to help them navigate their challenging circumstances throughout the year.

Redbridge Faith Forum

The Head of the Vihara, Venerable P. Hemaratana Thero, remained engaged in the proceedings of the Redbridge Faith Forum. RBCC, in turn, played an active role in promoting harmony among the diverse faith communities by means of the forum's initiatives.

Regular Religious activities

Throughout the early months of 2023, the daily and weekend pujas (religious ceremonies) got back to the pre-pandemic level as devotees started to come into the temple in person. As the year progressed, the Vihara totally resumed in-person gatherings for the public.

To ensure the protection and well-being of both devotees and the global community, the venerable monks undertook special Pujas and Pirith chanting. These devotional practices were aimed at safeguarding devotees and extending blessings to the wider world.

Dhamma School

The Dhamma school also started operating at pre-pandemic levels and all the students were very eager to attend the temple in person which started from the new academic year beginning in September 2022, lessons transitioned to being conducted within the Vihara premises, with students participating in person.

The commitment displayed by the Dhamma school coordinators and teachers is deeply acknowledged and valued. Their dedication played a pivotal role in ensuring the successful continuation of Dhamma School classes during this period.

Fundraising

Apart from the food fair in March, 2023 and sponsorships for the New Year Festival in April, we were unable to have any other fundraising events this year but were able to maintain the requirements with regular donations and the reserves of funds.

Special note

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the unwavering commitment shown by the venerable monks and all devotees. Their understanding and patience during the challenging times of post-pandemic restrictions were truly commendable. Additionally, we are deeply thankful for the constant support extended by devotees from all quarters, even in the face of financial and other adversities experienced by them throughout this unparalleled post-pandemic period.

Redbridge Buddhist Cultural Centre

16 December 2023

**Independent Examiner's Reports to
The Trustees of REDBRIDGE BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 October 2023 which are set out on the page 7-10. My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation from you as Trustees concerning and such matters. In my examination, no such matters of concern has come to my attention.

In my opinion of the financial statements give true and fair view of the Charity's income and expenditure for the year ended 31 October 2023

Sarath Jayaratne BA(Hon) FCCA

Accountants

Excel Accounting Solutions

119 Belgrave Avenue

Gidea Park

Romford

Essex

RM2 6PS

31 August 2024

T:01708704775

REDBRIDGE BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE-CHARITY NO:1075351

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 October 2023**


	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Income from charitable activities			
Donations	1	21,728	33,475
Other income from fund raising	2	4,472	882
Total income		26,200	34,357
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Fund raising, cultural events and other expenses	3	(13,320)	(4,384)
Travel and subsistence	5	(4,958)	(2,760)
Utilities, services and insurance expenses	4	(8,893)	(6,509)
Repairs and maintenance		(346)	(1,517)
Telephone and other office expenditure	6	(1,194)	(1,368)
Legal and other professional fees		(300)	(100)
Office equipment and other equipment	8	(1,864)	0
Total expenditure		(30,875)	(16,638)
Total expenditure over income		(4,675)	17,719
Finance cost and other charges			
Interest charges	7	(1,388)	(1,350)
Depreciation		(210)	(323)
Net movement of funds - Surplus(deficit) for the year		(6,273)	16,046


REDBRIDGE BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE-CHARITY NO:1075351

Balance Sheet
As at 31 October 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Equipment	10	-	210
Freehold Land & Building.	10	297,673	297,673
Total non-current assets		297,673	297,883
Current Assets			
Receivables	9	-	5,463
Bank/building society balances		95,216	104,949
Cash in hand		1,500	260
Net current assets		96,716	110,672
Total assets		394,389	408,555
Loans due after more than one year		(17,683)	(25,575)
Total Net Assets		376,707	382,980
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Fund at the beginning of the period		382,980	366,933
Net Movement For the year		(6,273)	16,046
Total Funds		376,707	382,980

Notes on pages 8 to 10 are form part of this financial statements. The financial statements have been approved by Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf.


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Rev. P. Hemaratana Thero
Trustee


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BENTOTAGE P. R. PERERA
Trustee

**Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2023**

Note 1	Income from donations	2023	2022
		£	£
	Monthly Standing Orders from devotees	20,283	21,665
	Donation - Katina ceremony	0	11,184
	Other donations from devotees & visitors	0	625
	Donation - Felicitation ceremony	1,445	0
		<u>21,728</u>	<u>33,475</u>
Note 2	Income from other fund raising	2023	2022
		£	£
	Fund raising at cultural events	2,265	880
	Food fair	1,589	0
	Other income - refunds, interest and other	618	2
		<u>4,472</u>	<u>882</u>
Note 3	Fund raising, cultural events and other expenses	2023	2022
		£	£
	Hall & Marquee Hire	2,200	300
	Felicitation ceremony	9,055	3490
	Subscriptions	0	228
	Cultural event expenses	1,985	0
	Sundry - other expenses	80	367
		<u>13,320</u>	<u>4,384</u>
Note 4	Utilities, services and insurance expenses	2023	2022
		£	£
	Cleaning services	517	231
	Gas and Electricity	4,993	3644
	Insurance - property	1,209	1135
	Licensing Cost, security & alarm	179	374
	Water rates/charges	693	648
	Security & alarm	1,302	477
		<u>8,893</u>	<u>6,508</u>

REDBRIDGE BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE
 Annual report & accounts for the year ended 31 October 2023

Charity No 1075351

Note 5	Travel and subsistence expenses	2023	2022
		£	£
	Air tickets, travelling and accommodation	4,958	2760
		<u>4,958</u>	<u>2,760</u>
Note 6	Telephone and other office expenditure	2023	2022
		£	£
	Postage	163	95
	Stationery and printing	69	52
	Telephone, fax and broadband services	962	1221
		<u>1,194</u>	<u>1,368</u>
Note 7	Finance cost	2023	2022
		£	£
	Interest paid on mortgage	1,257	1257
	Bank charges	131	93
		<u>1,388</u>	<u>1,350</u>
Note 8	Equipment purchases	2023	2022
		£	£
	Re usable marquee	1,395	0
	Laptop and other equipment	469	0
		<u>1,864</u>	<u>0</u>
Note 9	Receivables	2023	2022
		£	£
	Claim due from EE limited	0	5463
		<u>0</u>	<u>5,463</u>

Note 10. Property, plant and equipment

	Land & Building	Furniture & Equipment	Library Books	IT Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or revaluation					
At 1 November 2022	297,673	14,573	1084	539	313,869
	297,673	14,573	1084	539	313,869
Depreciation					
At 1 November 2022	0	14,573	1,084	329	15,986
Charge for the year	0	0	0	210	210
At 31 October 2023	0	14,573	1084	539	16,196
Net book value					
At 31 October 2022	297,673	143	0	210	298,026
At 31 October 2023	297,673	0	0	0	297,673

Note 11. Trustees and committee members benefits

The trustees and committee members of RBCC render their service on voluntary basis and there were no payment made to the trustees or committee members during the year